(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Andhra Pradesh has informed that Bt. cotton samples analyzed by four laboratories, indicate the presence of high content of Nitrates/Nitrites, residues of hydro-cyanide (HCN) and organophosphates which may be common constituents of soil or fertilizers/pesticides used in cotton cultivation. The Bt cotton samples have also been tested in the toxicology laboratory of Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly. The analysis showed absence of HCN, Nitrate/Nitrite Alkaloids and Glycosides. The Ministry has so far not received any scientific report attributing sheep mortality due to grazing on Bt cotton fields *per se*.

Study made by WII

481. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's tiger population has fallen drastically between 2002 and 2007 according to a study made by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII); and

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the study and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As a part of the ongoing, refined process of all India estimation of tiger, co-predators, prey animals and habitat status initiated by Project Tiger (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (and approved by the Tiger Task Force), tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) have been finalized. The results indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. However, the status of tiger in protected areas/tiger reserves does not show a significant change.

(b) The estimation figures relating to the above States are given in Statement (*See* below). The Government has taken steps to strengthen protection of source populations of tiger in tiger reserves and protected areas, apart from addressing the landscape beyond such areas to strengthen conservation.

Statement

Details of finding of study made by WII

Sl. No.	State	Population estimate (Numbers)
1	2	3
1.	Rajasthan	32 (SE ± 30-35)
2.	Madhya Pradesh	300 (SE ± 228-364)

1	2	3
3.	Maharashtra (without Western Ghat Population)	103 (SE + 76-131)
4.	Chhattisgarh (without Indravati population)	26 (SE + 23-28)

SE : Standard Error

Global phasing out of mercury

482. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) pushing for a global phase out of mercury;

(b) the reasons for Government promoting the use of CFLs, which contain mercury and is a serious health hazard and cause catastrophe to the environment;

(c) whether Government have no functioning recycling scheme, and on account of this, most of the mercury would be released in the air;

(d) whether CFLs not only reduce bills, they also keep the overall power demand low; and

(e) the steps being taken to check the flow, dumping and flooding of Indian market with cheap and substandard quality of Chinese CFLs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Governing Council in its 24th Session held in Nairobi in February, 2007 adopted the decision UNEP/GC/24/3 on "Chemicals" and concluded that further long term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue. The Governing Council decided to establish an *Adhoc* Joint Working Group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives and requested the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

(b) As per the Bureau or Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) have potential to save energy and thereby reduce green-house gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Mercury is essential component of CFLs. The amount of mercury in them ranges from 1.3 milligram $\leq$ 5 milligram which does not pose health hazard to humans. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use. Unregulated disposal of CFLs can create environmental impacts.

(c) to (e) As per Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, CFLs use upto 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs, reduce electricity bills of consumers